Production and exports of tea

1545. SHRI CHO. S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total quantity of each variety of tea produced in the country during the last three financial years along with its value;

(b) which State produces the maximum quantity of tea in the country;

(c) what is the total consumption of tea in the country during the last three years; and

(d) what is the total value of exports both in quantity and value during the last three financial years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The total quantity of each variety of tea produced in the country during the last three financial years and the total estimated value of the crop are given below:—

Year	Production (In million kgs.)				Total estimated value@
	CTC	Orthodox*	Green Tea	Total	(In Rupees crores)
2001-02	772.36	73.58	5.47	851.41	5463.53
2002-03#	763.20	69.70	4.70	837.60	4835.29
2003-04#	772.49	73.50	4.50	850.49	4817.07

*Orthodox includes Darjeeling
#Estimated
@Based on the average auction prices.

(b) Maximum quantity of tea is produced in Assam.

(c) The total estimated domestic retention of tea in India during the last three years is as follows:

Year	Estimated domestic retention (In million kgs.)
2001-02	678
2002-03	676
2003-04	679

(d) Details of exports, in quantity and value, during the last three financial years are as follows:—

Year	Quantity (In million kgs)	Value (In Rupees crores)
2001-02	190.01	1695.79
2002-03	184.39	1664.92
2003-04	183.07	1636.99

Economic cooperation with Russia

1546. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that India-Russia trade stands at a low of $ 3.3 billion, of which Russia's imports from India are only $ 0.6 billion; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for this anomaly and what steps Government is thinking to initiate to boost economic cooperation with Russia?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The Indo-Russian bilateral trade during the financial year April 2003-March 2004 stood at US $ 1668.19 million. During this period, the exports to Russia from India stood at US $ 708.68 million while the imports from Russia to India stood at US $ 959.51 million. (Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata)

(b) To enhance India's exports to Russia, Government has taken a number of steps which, *inter alia,* include promotion of dialogue at the highest level, constant review through the Joint Commission/Working Group/ Sub-Group mechanisms, promoting direct business contacts through exchange of delegations and Joint Business Councils, holding of exhibitions, participation in fairs etc. In addition to this, w.e.f. April 2004, Russia has also been included as a Focus Country in the ongoing phase of the Focus CIS Programme aimed at developing and enhancing India's trade with countries of the CIS Region. Details of the programme are available on Department's website, www.commerce.nic.in under the head 'Trade Promotion Programmes'.